



Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

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admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk



‘Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up’

1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Thankfulness	Compassion	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Friendship	Courage
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Newsletter – Friday 2nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well.

It’s been a wonderfully sunny (and very warm!) week here at Witheridge Academy. The children have coped brilliantly with the rising temperatures, and staff have been actively encouraging regular water breaks, wearing sun hats and sun cream, and taking time in the shade during playtimes. To help us keep this up, please ensure your child has a *named* sun hat and bottle of sun cream in school every day.

Last Sunday, Mr Manning and I had the pleasure of joining our Exmoor Challengers on their final practice walk—a 12-mile trek filled with teamwork, determination, and lots of encouragement! It was a tough decision choosing our final team as every child gave their best and supported one another beautifully, reflecting our school’s vision of “*Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up.*” We’re proud to announce that Ebony, Paige, Graeson, Emily, Tate, Zack, Emma, and Abbie will be representing ‘Team Witheridge’ in the official 16-mile challenge this Saturday. Please join us in wishing them all the very best!



On Wednesday, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Athletics Finals at Kingsley College. A huge well done to all our competitors—we are so proud of your achievements and can’t wait to hear the final results!



Life, Love and Learning to the Full



Building Community
 Building Futures
 Building Learning Power
 Building Self Esteem



Please do not
 bring your
 mobile phone
 to school

Next week, we will be recognising Deaf Awareness Week. With several children in our school community who experience hearing impairments, this is an important opportunity to both acknowledge the challenges they may face and celebrate their resilience and success in learning and life. We're looking forward to a week of thoughtful conversations and learning.



Thursday will see our **VE Day Celebrations** in full swing! We'll begin with a special service at the church led by Vicar Adrian.

Following the service, we'll continue the celebrations with a **street party at school**.

Lunchtime festivities will take place from **12:00pm to 1:00pm**. Parents and carers are welcome to bring their own packed lunch, along with picnic blankets or chairs, and join us for a joyful afternoon together.

Children are invited to come dressed in **red, white and blue** for the day.

Finally, next week will be **Mrs Bragg's last week** with us. Mrs Bragg has supported our children in the FSU for the past two years, and she will be greatly missed. We know you'll join us in thanking her for her dedication and wishing her every success in her next chapter.

Wishing you all a relaxing and sunny Bank Holiday weekend—we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Tuesday**.

Warm regards,
Miss Ratcliffe

♥ Healthy Heart Month – This May! ♥

Supporting the **British Heart Foundation**

We've been so excited to launch **Healthy Heart Month** at **Witheridge CofE Academy** — a fun and active way to promote fitness, well-being, and raise money for a fantastic cause!

Throughout the month, children will be taking part in heart-healthy activities like:

🏃 Running 🏊 Skipping 🏹 Fitness Challenges ...and more!

Each child should have a **sponsorship form** to collect donations from family and friends, supporting the **British Heart Foundation's life-saving research and care**.

Let's get moving, have fun, and make a real difference together!

Thank you for your support—we can't wait to see everyone getting active for a great cause! 💕





Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow
Every Day Counts!

Weekly Attendance	
Nursery 1	100%
Nursery 2	100%
Reception	96%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	99%
Year 6	100%

Reminders:

- If your child is poorly, please report their absence to the school office on 01884 860205 by 9.20am.
- All medical appointments are to be advised in advance to the school office.
- Any other absences must be applied for via an absence request form.



Attendance Update

It's great to see everyone working so hard to achieve or beating our **96.5%** target.

We can only do this if we all work together!

Our attendance for the week is **97.6%**

Our attendance for the year to date is **95.6%**

Together Each achieves More!



The world is run by those who turn up

Attending school every day = **100%** attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = **90%** attendance
= 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = **80%** attendance
= more than ½ a term missed per year or 2 full years missed over the course of their school career

Attending 3½ days a week = **70%** attendance
= more than a quarter of the school year missed



An average attendance of **80%** or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole **2 years** from school.

Being late for school reduces learning time
If your child is **5 minutes** late every day - they will miss **3 days** of learning each year
If your child is **15 minutes** late every day - they will miss **2 weeks** of learning each year

Make every minute count





**Celebration Assembly
Well Done
For receiving a
Certificate of Achievement**



Class Award	
Nursery – Amari for settling in to the nursery. Reception – Finley & Lexi for settling in to the FSU. Class 1 – Billy for a fab start to year 1. Class 2 – Archie for encouraging others and doing your best. Class 3 – Ruby for always being kind, helpful and a good friend. Class 4 – Jack for always being willing to have a go and share learning with the class.	
Writer of the Week:	
Reception – Felicity for a great effort in handwriting. Class 1 – Elliot for a great start to his RSW writing group. Class 2 – Lacey for her beautiful handwriting. Class 3 – Jacob for a wonderful character description. Class 4 – Seamus for applying his knowledge wonderfully in grammar sessions this week.	
Bobbie's Lunchtime Award:	
Jayden for being very helpful in breakfast club.	
Contribution Award:	
Graeson for always being polite and helpful at lunchtime – Ms Wyborn	
Reaching 10 on the Nursery Caterpillar	
Rudi & Evelyn ☺	
20 Merits	
Class 4 – Amy	
40 Merits	
Class 1 – Barney Class 4 - Molly	
60 Merits	
Class 3 – Sam Class 4 – Betsy, Faith, Cody & Graeson	
House Points	
<i>Discovery 47</i>	<i>Endeavour 27</i>
<i>Enterprise 40</i>	<i>Voyager 48</i>

Key Dates for the Summer Term 2025

Monday 5 th May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY NO SCHOOL
Tuesday 6 th May	Church Coffee Morning – Bobbie Bacon Baps Rocksteady School Council Meeting Teacher Led Clubs – Construction, Times Table & SATs Club
Wednesday 7 th May	Whole Class photos Class 4 PE Class 4 Group 2 Forest School Mr Rogo – Music Tuition – All Day Stay and Play Toddler Group Session in FSU at 13:45 Messy Church Nursery to Year 2 15:30 – 16:45 Teacher Led Clubs – SATs Club & Gardening Club
Thursday 8 th May	VE Day Reception PE – Air Extreme in Barnstaple Class 3 PE Class 3 Group 2 Forest School Drum Tuition with Steve Godfrey Y6 Residential Parents Meeting at 3pm Teacher Led Clubs – Film & SATs Club
Friday 9 th May	Farm School Class 3 Group 2 Stay and Play Toddler Group Session in the School Hall at 9am Class 1 PE Reception Class Group 2 Forest School Teacher Led Clubs – Homework & SATs

Dates for your diary:

Summer Term 1

Monday 12 th May - 15 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 16 th May	Year 6 trip - TBC
Sunday 18 th May - 23 rd May	Year 6 Residential to Adventure Bude
Monday 26 th May - 30 th May	May half Term
Monday 2 nd June	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 3 rd June	Church Coffee Morning KS1 Rock & Rapid
Friday 6 th June	Farm School – Year 6 last visit
Friday 13 th June	Football Tournament @ South Molton Farm School Class 1 Group 1
Tuesday 17 th June	School Council Meeting
Wednesday 18 th June	New Reception Starters' Evening for Parent/Carers Messy Church
Thursday 19 th June	DT Day at Blundells for Class 4
Friday 20 th June	FSU Sports Day
Tuesday 24 th June	KS2 Beach Trip
Wednesday 25 th June	Wildside Information Evening for Parents/Guardians
Friday 27 th June	Farm School Class 1 Group 2
Wednesday 2 nd July	Sports Day

Tuesday 8 th July	Whole School Transition Day
Friday 11 th July	Farm School Reception Class
Monday 14 th July	Y6 Performance @ 2pm and 5pm
Tuesday 15 th July	Rocksteady Concert
Wednesday 16 th July	FSU Graduation Ceremony – details to follow Cricket tournament - UKS2 - High Bick
Thursday 17 th July	Wildside Residential for Class 3
Monday 21 st July	End of Year awards ceremony
Tuesday 22 nd July	Y6 Leavers' Church Service 10-11 Last Day of Summer Term
Wednesday 23 rd July	Non Pupil Day

These dates are intended as a guide and you will be notified of any changes.

PE & Forest School Days Summer Term 1

Monday

Class 2 PE

Class 2 Group 2 Forest School (Lily Ed, Iris, Olivia, Ronnie, Aurora, Ethan, Lacey, Noah J & Freddie)



Wednesday

Class 4 PE

Class 4 Group 2 Forest School (Evie, Paige, Liberty, Cody, Emma, Emily, Max & Abbie)

Thursday

Reception Class PE – Trampolining at Air Extreme

Class 3 - PE

Class 3 Group 2 Forest School (Ronnie, Ruby, Betsy, Hazel, Declan, Isabella, Khalid, Milo, Jessica, Theo & Jacob)

Friday

Class 1 PE

Reception Group 2 Forest School (Toby, Amelia, Taylor, Harvey, Felicity, Jayden-Lee, Riley, Lexi & Finley)

School Uniform



Please make sure your children's uniform is clearly labelled with their name. Any lost **unnamed** items will be donated to the PTFA for resale at half term.



The lost property box will be outside every Friday afternoon!

Team Meal Menu – Summer Term 2025 Week 3 - W/B 5 th May	
Monday	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY NO SCHOOL
Tuesday	Hotdogs With Onions V – Quorn Dogs Wedges, Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Pineapple Upside Down Cake & Custard
Wednesday	Roast Of The Day (Chicken) V – Cheesy Wheels Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy Mini Pancakes (Banana & Blueberry Sauce)
Thursday	VE DAY Street Party Food
Friday	Fish Fingers V – Vegetable Fingers Golden Fries, Seasonal Vegetables Or Baked Beans Trifle

Also available every day:
Jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or Beans
Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit

Cost of School lunches:
Nursery – £2.00 per meal.
Reception & KS1 children –
Universal Infant Free School Meals,
KS2 children £2.58 per meal.
Payment to be made via The Arbor App

A gentle reminder that we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL** and we have a number of students, staff and visitors with serious nut allergies. With this in mind, could we politely ask that **NO** products containing nuts be sent into school.



If you have any questions in relation to this, please contact the School Office.

Thank you for your consideration and for safeguarding our students.

☕🍞 Breakfast Church & Coffee Morning 🍵🍪

This Tuesday at School Drop-Off Time

📍 Hosted at Witheridge CofE Academy

Join Vicar Adrian, Sue, and friends from St John the Baptist Church for a warm, welcoming morning of:

- 🍌 Free Bobbie's Bacon Baps & Pastries
- ☕ Hot Drinks
- 🧸 Toys Out for Toddlers
- 👕 Second-Hand Uniform Stall (Donations Welcome)
- 💬 Great Chat & Community Spirit

Everyone welcome!

Come for the food, stay for the company.



Breakfast & After School Club

Bobbie's Brekkie served at 8am (£4.00)

Or

Drop off at 8.30am (£2.00)

After School Club

With daily activities

3.30-4.30 or 3.30-5.30

£4.00 per hour

All payable on the Arbor App

Discount for Pupil Premium

(Nursery aged children charged

At hourly rate.)



Witheridge CofE Academy
After School Club
FSU to Year 6



**Monday -
Crafts**



**Tuesday -
Board games**



**Wednesday -
Cooking**



**Thursday -
Keep Fit**



**Friday -
Movie & Quiz**

After School Club

Monday to Friday

3.30 to 5.30

Booking essential

01884 860518

admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk

£4.00 per hour (Pre-School hourly rate)



**STAY & PLAY
TODDLER GROUP
FOR BUMPS & BEYOND**

Witheridge CofE Academy

Wednesday 13:45-15:30 in our FSU
Friday 9:00-10:30 in the School Hall

£1.00 donation per family

For more Information :
Call 01884 860518 or email admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk



After school club for Nursery
and up to the end of Year 2
(Nursery Children need to be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian)

Wednesday 7th May 2025

3.30 - 4.45 pm
in Class 2's classroom

Parents and Guardians are welcome to
join us and take part.

We will be offering some craft and activities based
around the Bible & have a short celebration.

Please consent via the Arbor App (Under Trips) by
Mon 5th May you want to attend so that we have
enough snacks and crafts available.

Thank you, Sue and Adrian Wells



Ready for Take-Off! 🚀

As we began the new term, the children went on an exciting journey exploring all sorts of transport and, this week, have now blasted off into space for our intergalactic adventure!

Our classroom has transformed into a cosmic learning zone, where the children are diving into the fascinating world of rockets, astronauts, planets, and stars. They have also been giggling along with our story of the week – *Aliens Love Underpants!* It's been wonderful to see their imaginations take flight as they learn about life beyond Earth.

I have included some photos of our space-themed role-play area, which I know some of the children have been talking about at home – it has been a huge hit! You might even spot a few little astronauts hard at work on their next space mission.



Russell Wilcox Whole Class Photos



On Wednesday 7th May

For your child to have their photo taken with the rest of their class, **we do need your permission via the Arbor App consents (A reminder message has been sent to the parent, who we are waiting for)**

Sorry but if permission is not given we cannot let your child be in the whole class photograph.

Giving permission does not mean that you have to buy a print.



Witheridge Warriors FOOTBALL PRESENTATION

To celebrate our first season as a Youth football club we are having a presentation celebration and BBQ
5th May 2025 (Bank holiday Monday)
**Edgedown Park Football Club
 Witheridge**

- 12.30pm Medal Presentation
- 1pm BBQ
 (all registered kids get a free hot dog or burger)
- 3pm Witheridge 2nd team are playing at home
 V Exeter Uni (weather permitting)

Wetheridgewarriors@gmail.com

WITHERIDGE TENNIS
 COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 3 MAY
 10AM TO 12 NOON

Witheridge Parish Hall



Come along and meet your friends over a cup of coffee and piece of cake

Stalls: Raffle (chicken dinner & much more)
 Plants - Cakes and preserves
 Pre-loved homewares
 Muffet Monroe ceramics & cards
 Lesotho Rose soaps & oils

Have-a-go tennis (rackets provided)

Donation to Devon Air Ambulance Trust



VE Day Celebrations @ Witheridge Sports Club

8TH MAY | 2PM - 4PM
 CREAM TEAS &
 MUSIC

10TH MAY | 7PM - 11PM
 PARTY WITH PIMMS

FORE STREET, WITHERIDGE,
 EX16 8AH
 WITHERIDGESPORTSCLUB@GMAIL.COM



LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB

May Half-Term

Wed 28th – Fri 30th, 10am - 3pm
Morcharad Bishop Playing Fields

REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY 5TH MAY

PLEASE SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR BOOKING DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/thelighthouseclubMidDevon/>

OR EMAIL info@lighthouseclub.fun

**MORCHARD BISHOP PLAYING FIELD
ASSOCIATION**
at
THE PLAYING FIELD
top of WOOD LANE, MORCHARD BISHOP EX17 6PE
SUNDAY MAY
11th 2pm
Seller entry 1pm



Free entry for everyone

But please support us by buying refreshments

In case of cancellation due to weather or ground conditions, please follow our Facebook page: Morchard Bishop Playing Fields Association or register your interest by email: mbplayingfield@gmail.com



EXE VALLEY YOUNG FARMERS
INVITES YOU TO THEIR

**WINE AND WISDOM
QUIZ NIGHT**

FRIDAY 2ND MAY

7PM FOR 7:30PM START
Cruwys Morchard Village Hall, EX16 8LD
Teams of 4-6
£10 Per Person
Includes a Bottle of Wine per Team and Ploughman's Supper
Hamper Raffle and Bar

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
PLEASE CONTACT KATHERINE ON 07711 053955

FACEBOOK 'EXE VALLEY YFC WINE & WISDOM'

CAR BOOT SALE

**WILL BE HELD @ LAPFORD PLAYING FIELD
on SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025**

SELLERS 10am—BUYERS 11am
£5 PER CAR
£7 PER VAN OR CAR & TRAILER

For more information
please contact Grace on 07807019890

IN AID OF LAPFORD YOUTH PLAYING FIELD TRUST

Any articles, which appear in the school newsletter, that have not been organised by or on behalf of the school, have not been verified by TEAM Multi-Academy Trust as to the suitability for children. The news items are for parent information only